

REMARKS

First, Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 1, 3-7, and 11-21 are all the claims pending in the present application, new claims 19-21 having been added as indicated herein. The Examiner continues to reject claims 1, 3-7, and 11-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 3, 7, 11, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Baun (DE 3610519). Claims 4-6, 12-14, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Baun.

§ 112, second paragraph, Rejections - Claims 1, 3-7, and 11-18

The Examiner maintains the rejections of claims 1, 3-7, and 11-18 based on the same reasons set forth in the previous Office Action. Applicants submit the attached 132 Declaration to support Applicants' previous argument that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the meaning of response frequency.

§ 102(b) Rejections (Baun) - Claims 1, 3, 7, 11, and 15

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 3, and 15 for the reasons set forth in the second full paragraph on page 4 of the present Office Action.

In response, first, Applicants reiterate the arguments set forth in the previous Amendments/Responses. Further, the Examiner only discusses that Baun allegedly reduces the coefficient of friction in the width direction. However, the Examiner does not address several other limitations set forth in claim 1, including applying a vibration to a tire in a running state to reduce a coefficient of friction in a longitudinal direction of the tire, between the tire and the surface of a road, so as to increase a coefficient of friction in a width direction of the tire between the tire and the road.

That is, this specific claim has a feature in which a coefficient of friction in a width direction is increased. Baun does not disclose these particular features of claim 1.

Applicants submit that dependent claims 3 and 15 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies from independent claim 1.

§103(a) Rejections (Baun) - Claims 4-6, and 16-18

Dependent claims 4-6 and 16-18 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

Further, with respect to claims 16-18, Applicants submit that the Examiner does not even address the specific limitations set forth in these claims. The Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Baun to include the frequency ranges set forth in claims 4-6 in order to maximize friction force between the tire and road surface. Further, the Examiner alleges that the selection of an optimum value within prior art general conditions is generally recognized as being within level of ordinary skill in the art. In response, Applicants submit that the Examiner has simply made assertions without providing support in the applied references for said assertions. In fact, the Examiner even acknowledges that Baun fails to disclose or suggest the specific features of claims 4-6.

At least based on the fact that the features of claims 4-6 and 16-18 are not satisfied by Baun, and because the Examiner has not provided any references that support his assertions, Applicants maintain that claims 4-6 and 16-18 are patentably distinguishable over Baun.

Applicants submit that new claims 19-21 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 10/069,588

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q68338

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Diallo T. Crenshaw
Registration No. 52,778

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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